

RESPECT YOURSELF PROTECT YOURSELF



How can I protect myself?

Chlamydia can be prevented through:

- Abstinence (not having ANY vaginal, anal, or oral sex)
- Using condoms and dental dams the right way every time you have sex
- Limiting your partners (the safest option would be to have only one un-infected partner who only has sex with you)
- Avoiding alcohol or drug use because they may lead to risky sexual behavior
- Talking to your partner(s) about their sexual history

Chlamydia in Pregnancy



Chlamydia is strongly associated with ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, infertility, increased risk for miscarriage, preterm delivery, and premature rupture of the amniotic sac, which increases the fetus's risk for infection and preterm delivery. During delivery, babies are exposed to these bacteria and risk developing blindness, life-threatening blood infections, and pneumonia. Chlamydia is the leading cause of early infant pneumonia and conjunctivitis (pink eye) in the newborn.

KEEP CALM and GET TESTED

Yearly screenings for Chlamydia are recommended if you are:

- A sexually active woman age 25 or younger
- A sexually active woman over age 25 with a risk factor—for example, having a new sexual partner or multiple sex partners
- A man who has sex with other men

You also should be tested if you are pregnant.

Have an open and honest talk with your healthcare provider so they can evaluate the testing you may need.

For more information about Chlamydia

Call your health care provider, your local health department, or contact



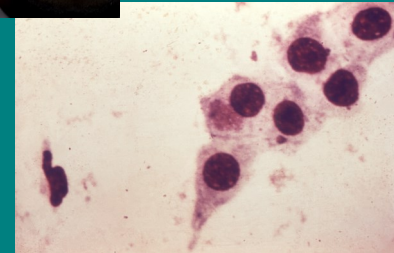
at

www.health.mo.gov
www.cdc.gov/std

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Section for Disease Prevention
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
Services provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

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Chlamydia



Know the facts!

Chlamydia doesn't usually have symptoms.

How can I find out if I am infected?

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States. It is known as the 'silent disease' because in most cases the infection does not have any symptoms until it is advanced.

How is Chlamydia spread?

During the early stages when chlamydia usually has no symptoms it can very easily be passed to another person. It is spread through contact with the penis, mouth, vagina, or anus of a person infected with chlamydia. This means it is passed from person to person through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. It can also be spread from mother to child during the birthing process.

Chlamydia is very common in young people between the ages of 15-24. Over half of all chlamydia infections are in people under the age of 25.

If you think you or your partner(s) may have Chlamydia, both of you should get tested.

Washing your genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not protect you from getting chlamydia.

Symptoms of Chlamydia

Most people who have chlamydia have no symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they may not appear until several weeks after having sex with an infected partner.

For women who do experience symptoms, they may include:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Lower abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Fever
- Burning during urination (peeing)
- Pain during intercourse (sex) and
- Bleeding between periods

For men who do experience symptoms they may include:

- Burning sensation when urinating
- A discharge from the penis
- Burning or itching around the opening of the penis

Symptoms of an anal infection, for men and women, include anal pain, bleeding, and discharge or leakage.

If you had Chlamydia and were successfully treated it does not protect you from getting it again.

Your healthcare provider, and many clinics, can test for chlamydia by taking a urine sample or a swab sample.

Make sure you discuss with them any questions you may have about the testing or the results.

Treatment

Because Chlamydia is a bacterial infection, it can be cured with antibiotics. Your healthcare provider will know the best treatment and you should take all medication as prescribed.

What if I don't get treated?

- Untreated chlamydia in women could cause damage to the reproductive system.
- You could infect others.
- You have a greater chance of getting HIV.

Your sex partners need to be treated too. Otherwise, you could become infected again.

